

TRUMBULL NATURE COMMISSION

Tuesday, April 12, 2011
Trumbull Nature & Arts Center
7:00 pm

Meeting Minutes

Agenda Items: Call Meeting to Order
Public Comments – 15 Minutes
Acceptance of March Minutes
Treasurer's report
Vote on date/day change for monthly meetings for 2011
TNAC development plans
- Organization chart/committees for 2011
- Trumbull Land Trust proposal
- Aquarion grant
2011 Programs & Events updates
- Unilever Earth Day Fair
- Unilever Community Impact Day – community gardens
- E-rotary Community Impact Day – TNAC Children's garden
- Come to Your Senses program event
- CT Trails Day Hike
- Ideas for possible community impact days
- Program manuals
Website and Media
Old Business
New Business
Adjournment

Attending: Commission: Chairman Pam Georgas, Frank Grazynski, Kevin Malone, Ruth Mohr. Website Administrator: Mitchell Lewis, Guest: Meg Barnes, April Meeting Clerk: Sheryl Baumann

Meeting called to order at 7:06 pm.

Public Comments

No public comments

March Minutes were not voted on, due to the lack of a quorum.

Treasurer's Report

No report was submitted.

Vote on date/day change for monthly meetings for 2011

A discussion was held regarding the date of TNAC Commission Meetings, in order to accommodate the schedules of all participants. The third Monday of the each month was decided on, pending a vote at the next meeting.

TNAC development plans

Organization Chart/Committees for 2011

Discussion was held regarding the formalization of a Programming Committee. Pam proposed that the number of Committees be reduced to two, those being the Programming Committee, and the Development Committee. The Programming Committee would hire instructors, develop seasonal programs, organize field trips. The Development Committee would encompass Finance, Marketing, and Location. Mike Paoletto offered to be on the Programming Committee. Mary Ellen Lemay offered to be on the Programming Committee, as a paid instructor. Meg Barnes volunteered to assist with the Programming Committee, Ruth Mohr also volunteered to assist with the Programming Committee. Stephen Lemoine offered to be a paid instructor for summer programming.

Trumbull Land Trust Proposal

Frank Grazynski made a proposal to the Parks Commission that if the Town of Trumbull takes over the Trumbull Land Trust, the Land Trust sites would then be available for TNAC programs. TNAC programs at these Land Trust sites could include a series of lectures and hikes. Frank suggested that a sub-committee be formed with the Trumbull Land Trust, the Conservation Commission, the Nature Commission, and possibly others.

Aquarion Grant

Submission due in May.

2011 Programs & Events updates

Unilever Earth Day Fair

Unilever's Earth Day Fair will be held on April 22, 2011 at Unilever in Trumbull. The Vendor Fair is at 12:30. Sheryl Baumann created a Banner that will be at TNAC's table for the Event. Deborah Cox is giving out flyers.

Community Impact Day – Community Gardens

Unilever is donating \$2,000 to this project, if 10 volunteers participate. On May 12th and May 20th, Unilever will be volunteering at the Garden. Sun Products is donating \$1,000 to this project.

E-Rotary Community Impact Day – TNAC Children's Garden

The E-Rotary Club is donating \$1,000 to this project.

Come to Your Senses Program Event

This event will be held on May 1st, from 2pm – 4pm, Frank Grazynski will lead a hike on TNAC's grounds. He will emphasize using your five senses to interact with nature. The outdoor walk will be followed by a discussion inside the TNAC building.

CT Trails Day Hike

This event will be held on June 4th. Frank Grazynski, John Lauria, and Ken Martin will lead the hike.

Ideas for possible Community Impact Days

A discussion was held regarding the opportunities for companies to hold a Community Impact Project event at TNAC. Chairpersons suggested that the focus be on enhancing the current Butterfly Garden, to be used as a teaching tool and tie-in to the Come to Your Senses theme. Ruth proposed a path be built consisting of Pea Stone. Also, additional plantings could be added, as well as Hardware Cloth installed around the garden in order to protect against groundhog invasion. A “donated by” plaque could be installed. The total cost is estimated at \$1,500 for materials, along with 20 volunteers donating their time to the project.

Program Manuals

Meg Barnes has developed a Program Manual in order to better streamline the programming process.

Website and media

Mitchell demonstrated the Drupal content management system that would allow multiple users to update the website. A discussion was held regarding the future of the website, in regards to security needs for the upcoming 501c3 requirements.

Old Business/New Business

- Ruth Mohr reported that the Garden Club would like to donate to TNAC. Ruth suggested that the funds be put towards shrubs that would attract butterflies to the Butterfly Garden.
- On May 28, 2011 the Butterfly Association will conduct a Butterfly Hike at TNAC.
- Mike Paoletto submitted a report via Pam Georgas regarding a Search and Rescue Dogs group. The group would like to use the TNAC property to train dogs, and provide demonstrations to the public.

Adjournment

With no other business, the meeting adjourned at 8:40pm

Submitted by Sheryl Baumann, April Meeting Nature Commission Clerk